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Letter dated 23 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia of 23 August 2002, on the act of aggression carried out by the Russian Federation against Georgia and manifested in the barbaric bombings of the country on 23 August 2002, which resulted in civilian casualties (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 162 of the provisional agenda, and the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/57/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 23 August 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses extreme outrage at the fact that troops of the Russian Federation have committed yet another barbaric act against neighbouring Georgia.

On 23 August 2002, two groups of Russian military aircraft (each with two planes) invaded Georgian airspace and from 5.20 a.m. to 6.07 a.m. bombed the territory of Georgia, specifically the villages of Patara Borbalo, Ukana Pshavi, Tbatan and Bukhrebi and the area of the Ilto gorge.

The occurrence of the invasion of Georgian airspace and the air attack was also verified by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) observers.

The air strikes resulted in deaths among the peaceful population. According to preliminary information, three Georgian citizens, including one woman, died as a result of this bloody act. Seven persons, including two children, were seriously wounded. The exact number of deaths is being clarified.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia states that this constitutes completely barefaced aggression by Russia against sovereign Georgia, flagrant flouting of all the civilized norms of inter-State relations and cold-blooded murder of completely innocent people, including women and children.

Full responsibility for this crime lies with the aggressive circles in the Russian Federation, including the military, which under the far-fetched pretext of fighting terrorists have recently fanned anti-Georgia hysteria and called for military action in the territory of Georgia.